AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) [[Method]] <u>A method</u> for validating consistency of entities <u>modeling a physical asset of a utility, which entities are</u> stored in data sets of a multitude of different IT systems <u>of the utility</u>, <u>wherein</u> [[whereas]] a consistency service [[comprises]] <u>includes:</u>

an input buffer in which an entity to be validated for consistency can be placed[[,]]<u>;</u>

output means in which the result of the consistency validation can be stored and

communication means to communicate with the different IT systems,

[[whereas]] <u>wherein</u> an adapter for each of the IT systems allows communication between the consistency service and the IT systems, such that a signal sent by the consistency service to verify [[the]] <u>an</u> existence of a specific data set of an IT system can be sent back to the consistency service if that specific data set exists, and

[[whereas]] <u>wherein</u> a <u>reference container</u> <s>storage device</s> holds references to the [[entity]] <u>entities</u> in the data sets of the various IT systems such that [[the]] <u>a</u> specific entity in a specific IT system can be addressed <u>through the adapter of the specific IT system</u>,

said method comprising the following steps:

loading a reference to the entity to be validated for consistency into the buffer of the consistency service[[,]];

the consistency service, sending a signal to verify the existence of a specific data set of an IT system to the IT system holding the entity to be validated for consistency[[,]]; and

storing [[a]] consistency validating information in the output means, ~~said consistency validating information depending~~ based on the signal being sent back to the consistency service.

2. (Currently Amended) [[Method]] The method as in claim 1, further comprising ~~the following step~~:

logging a failure of consistency validation if no signal is [[being]] sent back to the consistency service, by adding the entity, which was to be validated for consistency, and the IT system, which was not replying to the signal, to a log file.

3 (Currently Amended) [[Method]] The method as in claim 1, further comprising ~~the following step~~:

the consistency service, checking the communication to the IT system holding the data set to be verified prior to sending the signal to verify the existence of the specific data set of that IT system.

4. (Currently Amended) **[[Method]]** <u>The method</u> as in claim 1, further comprising ~~the following steps~~:

loading a multitude of entities to be validated for consistency into the buffer of the consistency service**[[,]]**; and

the consistency**[[,]]** service, successively processing the entities to be validated for consistency, sending out signals and storing consistency validating information in the output means.

5. (Currently Amended) A computer program product loadable into an internal memory of a digital computer, comprising:

computer program code means to make, when said program is loaded in the computer, the computer execute the method of claim 1.

6. (New) A consistency validating system for validating consistency of entities modeling a physical asset of a utility, which entities are stored in data sets of a multitude of different IT systems of the utility, said system comprising a consistency service having an input buffer in which an entity to be validated for consistency can be placed, output means in which the result of the consistency validation can be stored and communication means to communicate with the different IT systems,

wherein an adapter for each of the IT systems allows communication between the consistency service and the IT systems, such that a signal sent by the consistency service to verify an existence of a specific data set of an IT system can be sent back to the consistency service if that specific data set exists,

wherein a reference container holds references to the entities in the data sets of the various IT systems such that a specific entity in a specific IT system can be addressed through the adapter of the specific IT system,

wherein the consistency service is adapted for sending a signal to verify the existence of a specific data set of an IT system to the IT system holding the entity to be validated for consistency, and

wherein the output means are adapted for storing consistency validating information based on the signal being sent back to the consistency service.